

HART-TEETER
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Interviews: 2003 adults
Dates: December 5-9, 1996

48 Male
52 Female
[5]

FINAL

Study #4076
NBC News/WSJ
December 5-9, 1996

AR	TYPE	SA	FORM	DA
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[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]	

December 1996

1. All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?¹

	<u>12/96</u>	<u>11/96+</u>	<u>10/96</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>8/2- 6/96+</u>	<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>11/95</u>	
			+									
Right direction.....	46	41	42	39	37	32	28	29	25	30	25	[15]
Wrong track.....	38	40	39	44	43	49	52	54	54	50	57	
Mixed (VOL).....	13	16	14	13	16	14	15	12	14	14	12	
Not sure.....	3	3	5	4	4	5	5	5	7	6	6	

¹ Only selected months of comparable data shown.

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 2a. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing as president?

	<u>12/96</u>	<u>10/96+</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>8/20- 21/96</u>	<u>8/2- 6/96+</u>	<u>7/96+</u>	<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	
				+							
Approve.....	58	56	55	53	54	54	53	52	51	46	[18]
Disapprove.....	34	37	38	38	36	33	39	40	39	43	
Not sure.....	8	7	7	9	10	13	8	8	10	11	

	<u>12/95</u>	<u>11/95</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>9/95</u>	<u>7/95</u>	<u>6/95</u>	<u>4/21- 25/95</u>	<u>4/3- 4/95</u>	<u>3/95</u>	
	51	49	46	46	47	46	50	46	44	
	40	42	43	43	44	42	39	44	45	
	9	9	11	11	9	12	11	10	11	

	<u>1/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>11/9/ 94+</u>	<u>11/4- 5/94+</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>9/94</u>	<u>7/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	<u>5/94</u>	
	45	48	43	44	48	44	49	52	57	
	43	44	48	44	43	48	44	39	37	
	12	8	9	12	9	8	7	9	6	

	<u>3/94</u>	<u>1/94</u>	<u>12/93</u>	<u>10/93</u>	<u>9/93</u>	<u>7/93</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>4/93</u>	<u>3/93</u>	<u>1/93</u>	
	55	60	56	47	50	45	41	52	57	51	
	36	31	33	43	39	45	50	34	26	16	
	9	9	11	10	11	10	9	14	17	33	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

2b. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing in handling the economy?

	<u>12/96*</u>	<u>10/96+</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>8/2-</u>		<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>9/95</u>	[17]
Approve.....	59	55	54	55	53	53	50	44	47	42	42		
Disapprove.....	32	37	35	35	39	38	42	47	43	46	47		
Not sure.....	9	8	11	10	8	9	8	9	10	12	11		
				<u>4/21-</u>									
		<u>7/95</u>	<u>6/95</u>	<u>25/95</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>9/94</u>	<u>7/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>		
		48	43	52	43	50	46	44	40	45	48		
		42	48	39	46	38	46	47	51	46	41		
		10	9	9	11	12	8	9	9	9	11		
		<u>5/94</u>	<u>3/94</u>	<u>1/94</u>	<u>12/93</u>	<u>10/93</u>	<u>9/93</u>	<u>7/93</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>4/93</u>	<u>3/93</u>		
		43	47	50	48	40	42	40	33	45	52		
		46	43	39	39	50	48	51	56	40	28		
		11	10	11	13	10	10	9	11	15	20		

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

2c. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing in handling our foreign policy?

	<u>12/96**</u>	<u>10/96+</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>8/2-</u>		<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>9/95</u>	[18]
Approve.....	49	50	49	51	48	48	48	49	46	42	42	<u>5</u>	
Disapprove.....	37	38	38	35	38	42	42	38	44	45	45	45	
Not sure.....	14	12	13	14	14	10	10	13	10	13	13	13	
				<u>4/21-</u>									
		<u>7/95</u>	<u>6/95</u>	<u>25/95</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>9/94</u>	<u>7/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	<u>4</u>	
		37	39	46	37	50	44	45	32	34	34	34	
		48	46	41	47	38	45	46	60	54	54	54	
		15	15	13	16	12	11	9	8	12	12	12	
		<u>5/94</u>	<u>3/94</u>	<u>1/94</u>	<u>12/93</u>	<u>10/93</u>	<u>9/93</u>	<u>7/93</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>4/93</u>	<u>3/93</u>	<u>3</u>	
		36	47	53	45	33	47	50	38	47	47	47	
		51	39	31	40	58	34	36	43	30	22	22	
		13	14	16	15	9	19	14	19	23	31	31	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

3. I'm going to read you the names of several public figures, and I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as either very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. If you don't know the name, please just say so.

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Somewhat Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>	<u>Don't Know Name/ Not Sure</u>	
Bill Clinton¹							[19]
December 1996.....	22	32	15	15	16	-	
November 1996+.....	22	26	13	15	23	1	
October 1996+.....	26	28	13	12	21	-	
September 1996+.....	24	29	14	13	20	-	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	23	27	15	13	21	1	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	21	32	16	13	18	-	
June 1996+.....	22	29	14	15	20	-	
May 1996+.....	20	31	15	15	19	-	
March 1996.....	18	33	17	14	18	-	
January 1996.....	17	29	16	18	19	1	
December 1995.....	18	31	15	18	18	-	
Newt Gingrich¹							[20]
December 1996*.....	8	13	22	21	29	7	
October 1996+.....	9	12	17	17	39	6	
September 1996+.....	8	19	16	18	33	6	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	8	17	19	21	30	5	
June 1996+.....	7	15	21	19	32	6	
May 1996+.....	7	15	18	21	33	6	
March 1996.....	6	16	21	18	33	6	
January 1996.....	7	16	17	20	34	6	
December 1995.....	9	18	16	18	33	6	
October 1995.....	9	19	21	17	26	8	
September 1995.....	8	19	19	16	27	11	
Hillary Rodham Clinton¹							[21]
December 1996*.....	15	24	22	15	22	2	
October 1996+.....	20	24	17	13	25	1	
September 1996+.....	19	24	16	15	25	1	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	15	24	15	15	29	2	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	15	26	18	15	24	2	
June 1996+.....	14	21	19	17	27	2	
May 1996+.....	14	20	19	17	27	3	
March 1996.....	15	23	18	16	26	2	
January 1996.....	13	22	19	19	25	2	
December 1995.....	19	27	19	12	21	2	
September 1995.....	19	25	19	15	20	2	

¹ Only selected months of comparable data are shown.

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

middle of the scale. You may use any number between one and ten, depending on how much of a priority you think that issue should be.

	Top Priority			Low Priority	Cannot Rate	
	<u>10</u>	<u>8-9</u>	<u>4-7</u>	<u>1-3</u>		
Reforming Medicare*.....	28	38	28	5	1	[26]
Reforming Social Security*.....	30	34	27	8	1	[27]
Protecting the environment*.....	26	29	36	9	-	[28]
Reducing taxes*.....	32	24	34	9	1	[29]
Reducing immigration*.....	29	20	35	15	1	[30]
Reducing the federal deficit*.....	40	31	24	4	1	[31]
Reforming welfare*.....	39	34	20	6	1	[152]
Reforming the campaign finance system**...	22	28	37	12	1	[32]
Creating jobs and economic growth**.....	41	37	19	3	-	[33]
Preventing U.S. jobs from moving overseas**.....	41	26	25	7	1	[34]
Improving public education**.....	57	27	12	3	1	[35]
Protecting Medicare**.....	48	28	20	3	1	[36]
Protecting Social Security**.....	52	28	17	2	1	[37]
Reducing crime**.....	57	25	13	4	1	[153]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

6. For each of the following issues, please tell me whether you think that President Clinton or the Republicans in Congress generally have the better approach to this issue, or whether there is not much difference. Who do you think has a better approach to **(READ ITEM.)**--President Clinton or the Republicans in Congress, or do you think there isn't much difference on this issue?

	<u>President Clinton</u>	<u>Republicans In Congress</u>	<u>No Difference</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
The budget deficit					[38]
December 1996.....	29	31	34	6	
January 1996.....	28	34	29	9	
October 1995.....	25	40	27	8	
September 1995.....	30	35	25	10	
July 1995.....	27	39	24	10	
January 1995.....	25	37	29	9	
November 9, 1994+.....	23	46	27	4	
Social Security					[39]
December 1996.....	38	27	25	10	
The environment					[40]
December 1996*.....	46	19	25	10	
Taxes					[41]
December 1996*.....	34	39	20	7	
January 1996.....	34	31	25	10	
October 1995.....	34	36	23	7	
July 1995.....	24	35	30	11	
January 1995.....	24	37	30	9	
November 9, 1994+.....	17	55	23	5	
Abortion					[42]
December 1996*.....	38	30	18	14	
Immigration					[43]
December 1996*.....	28	33	20	19	
Welfare reform					[44]
December 1996*.....	37	36	18	9	
January 1996.....	36	36	18	10	
October 1995.....	35	36	20	9	
September 1995.....	35	36	20	9	
July 1995.....	29	37	24	10	
January 1995.....	31	40	21	8	
November 9, 1994+.....	26	48	21	5	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

Q.6 (cont'd) **	President Clinton	Republicans In Congress	No Difference	Not Sure	
Crime					[45]
December 1996**.....	36	27	30	7	
January 1996.....	29	23	33	15	
July 1995.....	29	29	32	10	
January 1995.....	23	26	45	6	
November 9, 1994+.....	18	38	40	4	
Education					[46]
December 1996**.....	50	21	23	6	
January 1996.....	44	21	24	11	
July 1995.....	40	23	25	12	
Foreign trade					[47]
December 1996**.....	28	31	25	16	
Jobs and economic growth					[48]
December 1996**.....	44	28	22	6	
January 1996.....	32	29	27	12	
January 1995.....	36	34	25	5	
November 9, 1994+.....	30	44	22	4	
Campaign finance reform					[49]
December 1996**.....	22	26	35	17	
Medicare					[50]
December 1996.....	45	29	18	8	
January 1996.....	51	24	17	8	
October 1995.....	49	24	18	9	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 7a. Who do you want to see take the lead role in setting policy for the country--President Clinton or the Congress?

	<u>12/96</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>11/9/94</u>	
President Clinton.....	38	33	31	30	[51]
Congress.....	44	54	55	55	
Shared/equal role (VOL).....	14	6	8	11	
Neither (VOL).....	2	3	2	1	
Not sure.....	2	4	4	3	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 7b. As you may know, the Congress and the presidency are controlled by different parties. Do you think this divided government does or does not work well for the country?*

Does work well for the country.....	56	[52]
Does not work well for the country...	36	
Not sure.....	8	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 7c. When President Clinton and the Republican Congress disagree on important issues, which one of the following approaches should they take --they should each stand up for their principles, or they should each compromise to reach agreement?**

Stand up for their principles.....	20	[53]
Compromise to reach agreement.....	71	
Both/neither (VOL).....	7	
Not sure.....	2	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

8. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else?

(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT/ REPUBLICAN.")**

(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent? **(IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "STRICTLY INDEPENDENT.")**

Strong Democrat.....	19	{205}
Not very strong Democrat.....	12	FORM B--SKIP TO Q.10a
Independent/lean Democrat.....	9	FORM A--SKIP TO Q.13a
Strictly independent.....	19	
Independent/lean Republican.....	9	
Not very strong Republican.....	10	CONTINUE
Strong Republican.....	14	
Other.....	6	FORM B--SKIP TO Q.10a
Not sure/nothing.....	2	FORM A--SKIP TO Q.13a

(ASK ONLY OF REPUBLICANS IN Q.8.)

9. Let me read you a list of people who might seek the Republican nomination for president in the year 2000. If you were voting today in the next Republican primary for president, which **one** of the following candidates would you vote for?

(IF "NOT SURE," ASK:) Well, which way do you lean? **(ACCEPT ONLY ONE ANSWER.)**

Lamar Alexander.....	3	[54]
Pat Buchanan.....	5	
Texas Governor George Bush.....	19	
Steve Forbes.....	6	
Jack Kemp.....	20	
Colin Powell.....	37	
Someone else/none (VOL).....	4	
Not sure.....	6	

- 10a. How satisfied are you with the state of the U.S. economy today--are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the state of the economy?

	<u>12/96**</u>	<u>9/96</u>	<u>6/96</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>7/95</u>	<u>4/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	
Very satisfied.....	9	7	5	4	3	3	4	4	4	[55]
Somewhat satisfied.....	51	49	43	43	39	37	39	40	41	
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	27	30	32	38	37	38	35	37	38	
Very dissatisfied.....	11	12	18	14	19	19	21	18	15	
Not sure.....	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 10b. What is your feeling about your own financial situation today--are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with your financial situation?

	<u>12/96*</u>	<u>9/96</u>	<u>6/9</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/9</u>	
	*		6			4	
Very satisfied.....	16	14	15	13	15	13	[56]
Somewhat satisfied.....	50	51	49	50	48	48	
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	21	21	22	23	24	24	
Very dissatisfied.....	12	13	13	12	12	14	
Not sure.....	1	1	1	2	1	1	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 10c. Let me read you several elements relating to the current economy. For each one, please tell me if this is an area in which you feel very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. If this does not apply to you, please just say so.

When it comes to **(READ ITEM)**, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?**

*RESULTS DO NOT REFLECT RESPONSES OF THOSE WHO SAY THE ITEM DOES NOT APPLY TO THEM*¹

	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Your current job security						[57]
December 1996.....	36	38	13	12	1	
September 1996.....	37	39	10	13	1	
June 1996.....	38	37	12	12	1	
March 1996.....	36	37	14	12	1	
January 1996.....	30	31	10	10	19	
Current interest rates						[58]
December 1996.....	11	44	25	16	4	
September 1996.....	9	45	26	15	5	
June 1996.....	8	41	27	18	6	
March 1996.....	13	43	26	15	3	
January 1996.....	11	40	26	15	8	
The amount of money you are saving						[59]
December 1996.....	10	31	25	33	1	
September 1996.....	10	31	26	32	1	
June 1996.....	10	31	24	33	2	
March 1996.....	10	31	25	32	2	
January 1996.....	8	29	27	33	3	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

¹ The January 1996 comparative data *does* reflect results among all respondents; those who said the item does not apply to them were included in "not sure."


Q.10c (cont'd) **

	<u>Very Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Satisfied</u>	<u>Somewhat Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Very Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Job opportunities in the area you live in ²						[60]
December 1996.....	14	34	21	28	3	
September 1996.....	14	34	24	24	4	
June 1996.....	15	31	22	28	4	
March 1996 ²	13	31	25	28	3	
January 1996.....	11	27	25	27	10	
Your retirement security						[61]
December 1996.....	14	38	22	23	3	
September 1996.....	18	38	20	21	3	
June 1996.....	19	34	19	25	3	
March 1996.....	16	36	21	25	2	
January 1996.....	16	34	20	25	5	
The rate of inflation						[62]
December 1996.....	10	32	31	22	5	
September 1996.....	10	31	28	25	6	
June 1996.....	9	29	29	27	6	
March 1996.....	9	29	30	27	5	
January 1996.....	8	26	32	27	7	
Your opportunities for career advancement						[63]
December 1996.....	19	46	18	16	1	
September 1996.....	21	39	21	17	2	
June 1996.....	23	37	20	18	2	
March 1996.....	22	39	20	16	3	
January 1996.....	16	33	18	12	21	
Your income keeping up with the cost of living						[64]
December 1996.....	11	37	24	27	1	
September 1996.....	10	38	28	22	2	
June 1996.....	12	34	27	26	1	
March 1996.....	11	38	26	24	1	
January 1996.....	11	35	27	25	2	

² Prior to June 1996, the item read "job opportunities in your area".

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

ECONOMIC SATISFACTION INDEX¹

[280]	<u>12/96</u>	<u>9/96</u>	<u>6/96</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>
Satisfied (score of 61 to 100).....	34	35	32	31	29
Mixed (score of 40 to 60).....	35	35	35	36	37
Dissatisfied (score of 0 to 39).....	31	30	33	33	34
					
Average score.....	50	51	49	49	48

¹ Index is calculated based on responses to Q.10a, 10b, and 10c.

11. During the next year, do you think the national economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	<u>12/96**</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>7/95</u>	<u>4/21- 25/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>9/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	<u>5/94</u>	<u>3/94</u>	<u>1/94</u>	
Will get better.....	18	21	20	24	31	31	28	28	27	29	44	[65]
Will get worse.....	20	21	21	23	17	24	24	17	21	16	16	
Will stay about the same.....	58	52	54	50	46	40	44	52	49	52	36	
Not sure.....	4	6	5	3	6	5	4	3	3	3	4	
	<u>12/93</u>	<u>10/93</u>	<u>9/93</u>	<u>7/93</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>4/93</u>	<u>3/93</u>	<u>1/93</u>	<u>12/92</u>	<u>5/92</u>	<u>9/91+</u>	
	43	21	23	20	23	33	39	50	53	32	31	
	19	27	24	29	27	21	15	9	10	20	24	
	34	50	51	48	47	44	43	39	35	45	40	
	4	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	5	

12. Do you or does your spouse work for a company that **(READ ITEM)?****

	<u>Do Work For</u>	<u>Do Not Work For</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Exports goods or services to other countries.....	18	78	4	[66]
Faces competition from companies based outside the United States.....	22	73	5	[67]

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Now I have some questions on taxes and the budget...

- 13a. If Congress and the President cut taxes next year, which of these do you think is the better approach--an across-the-board cut in income tax rates for all taxpayers, **OR** targeted tax cuts for specific types of people, such as increasing the tax credit for families with young children or those paying for college tuition?*

Across-the-board cut in income tax rates.....	45	[68]
Targeted tax cuts.....	46	
Both equal (VOL).....	3	
Neither (VOL).....	2	
Not sure.....	4	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 13b. Here are some tax reductions that will be considered by the next Congress. Which one, if any, would you most like to see passed? **(ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)** *

An across-the-board reduction in income tax rates.....	34	[69]
Tax credits for families with young children.....	23	
A reduction in the capital gains tax.....	13	
Tax credits for college tuition expenses.....	16	
A reduction in the inheritance tax.....	3	
All (VOL).....	7	
None.....	1	
Not sure.....	3	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 14a. Do you favor or oppose a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

	<u>12/96</u> *	<u>3/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	
Favor.....	66	71	71	68	[70]
Oppose.....	19	25	16	19	

Depends (VOL).....	5		4	4	3
Not sure.....	10		-	9	10

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 14b. If a balanced budget amendment were to be passed, do you think it should or should not include a provision that would prohibit Congress from using funds from the Social Security trust fund to balance the budget?

	<u>12/9</u>	<u>3/95</u>	
	<u>6*</u>		
Should include provision.....	71	62	[71]
Should not include provision.....	25	34	
Not sure.....	4	4	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

15. There is a proposal that would allow people to invest some of their Social Security taxes in the stock market. This change means that when people retire, their benefits could either be higher or lower than expected, depending on the stock market's performance. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to allow people to invest their Social Security taxes in the stock market?*

Favor allowing people to invest Social Security taxes.....	46	[72]
Oppose allowing people to invest Social Security taxes.....	44	
Not sure.....	10	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

16. In future years, it is expected that revenues for the Medicare system will not be enough to cover expenses. Which do you think is the best way to deal with this situation--increase Medicare payroll taxes, decrease Medicare benefits, or decrease spending on other programs to maintain Medicare benefits at current levels?

	<u>12/96</u>	<u>4/21- 25/95¹</u>	
Increase Medicare payroll taxes.....	12	11	[73]
Decrease Medicare benefits.....	10	20	
Decrease spending on other programs to maintain Medicare benefits.....	65	59	
Not sure.....	13	10	

¹ In April 1996 the choices were phrased ". . . increase Medicare payroll taxes, decrease spending on Medicare, or decrease spending on other programs and maintain Medicare spending at current levels?"

17. The following are some proposals that are being considered in Congress to deal with Medicare's funding problems. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this proposal.

	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongl y Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Keeping premiums at current levels for those on Medicare who agree to join an HMO, or health maintenance organization, while increasing premiums for those who choose to continue seeing private-practice doctors						[74]
December 1996*.....	18	32	19	21	10	
September 1995.....	21	26	18	27	8	
Having Medicare beneficiaries with incomes of more than forty thousand dollars a year pay more for their health care coverage						[75]
December 1996**.....	24	36	21	15	4	
July 1995.....	31	35	17	15	2	
Increasing the Medicare payroll tax for all employed people						[76]
December 1996*.....	14	28	23	29	6	
July 1995.....	8	20	29	36	7	
Gradually raising the eligibility age for Medicare from sixty-five to sixty-eight						[77]
December 1996**.....	11	21	23	43	2	
July 1995.....	9	18	22	48	3	
Increasing the amount Medicare beneficiaries pay in premiums and deductibles						[78]
December 1996*.....	11	32	26	23	8	
July 1995.....	7	26	30	30	7	
Reducing the fees Medicare pays to hospitals and doctors for services						[79]
December 1996*.....	21	24	21	26	8	
September 1995.....	26	28	17	22	7	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

18. There is now a proposal to reduce the government's official measure of inflation, called the Consumer Price Index. This will reduce future cost-of-living increases in such programs as Social Security and veterans' benefits, but also will reduce the federal deficit. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose reducing the Consumer Price Index in this manner?**

Strongly favor.....	15	[80]
Somewhat favor.....	32	
Somewhat oppose.....	20	
Strongly oppose.....	23	
Not sure.....	10	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 19a. In your opinion, is the amount of money spent on political campaigns today too much, too little, or about right?*

Too much.....	92	[81]
Too little.....	1	

About right..... 5
 Not sure..... 2

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 19b. I am going to read you two proposals about the system for funding political campaigns in America, and for each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal?*

	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Using public funds to pay part of the cost of congressional campaigns, in exchange for limits on contributions from individuals and political action committees, in order to reduce the influence of special interests.....	20	26	19	31	4	[82]
Allowing contributors to give as much as they want, and allowing candidates to spend as much as they can, but reporting all the information and making it publicly available.....	23	23	15	36	3	[83]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

20. I am going to read you two education proposals, and for each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal?

	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Giving parents choices in determining which public school their children will attend						[84]
December 1996*.....	62	20	7	9	2	
Giving government vouchers to parents who send their children to private schools						[85]
December 1996*.....	25	19	18	35	3	
August 1996.....	19	24	17	37	3	
July 1994.....	15	21	22	39	3	

* Asked of one-half of the respondents (FORM A).

- C1a. Thinking about what it means to you personally to succeed in life, beyond family successes, which one of the following would you consider the most important way you personally would measure whether your life is a success or a failure? **(ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)**

	Q.C1a* Most Important		Q.C1a/b* Combined First and Second Most Important	
Having a strong religious faith.....	32	[86]	42	[87]
Gaining the respect of your peers and friends.....	11		27	
Gaining financial security.....	15		32	
Making a difference in your community.....	12		35	
Achieving success in your job or profession.....	15		31	
All of them (VOL).....	12	SKIP	NA	
Other/none of them (VOL).....	1	TO	NA	
Not sure.....	2	Q.C1c	NA	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO CHOOSE AN ITEM AS MOST IMPORTANT IN Q.C1a.)

- C1b. And which one would you consider the second most important way you personally would measure whether your life is a success or a failure? **(ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)**

- C1c. Which of the following statements comes closest to expressing how you feel about the state of morals in this country at the present time?

	12/96	10/64 ¹	
They are pretty bad and getting worse.....	61	41	[88]
They are pretty bad but getting better.....	16	14	
They are pretty good but getting worse.....	12	21	
They are pretty good and getting better.....	7	16	
Not sure.....	4	8	

¹ Comparable data from October 1964 was collected by the National Opinion Research Center. The percentage shown for "not sure" includes those who volunteered that they are indifferent.

- C2. Let me read you two statements about the problems facing society today, and please tell me which one comes closer to your view.

Statement A: Most serious problems in our society stem mainly from a decline in moral values.

Statement B: Most serious problems in our society stem mainly from economic and financial pressures on the family.

	12/96	8/94 ¹	
Statement A: Decline in moral values.....	51	51	[89]
Statement B: Economic/financial pressures.....	37	34	
Both equal (VOL).....	11	13	
Not sure.....	1	2	

¹ Comparable data is from a Hart Research survey of registered voters conducted for People For the American Way. In August 1994, the volunteered response "both equal" was recorded as "some of both". The percentage shown for "not sure" includes those who volunteered "neither".

- C3. For each of the decades I name, please tell me whether you feel the nation's morals and values were much higher in that decade than they are now, somewhat higher than now, somewhat lower than now, or much lower than they are now.**

	Much Higher Than Now	Somewhat Higher Than Now	Somewhat Lower Than Now	Much Lower Than Now	About The Same (VOL)	Not Sure	
The 1950s.....	59	23	4	3	3	8	[90]
The 1960s.....	20	50	14	5	6	5	[91]
The 1970s.....	8	48	27	4	9	4	[92]
The 1980s.....	6	41	23	11	16	3	[93]

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- C4a. Suppose the nation as a whole could focus on just one key area for improvement in the next few years. Which one of the following do you think would make the most important difference if Americans made a special effort to do better in that area over the next few years? **(ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)**

	Q.C4a** Most Important		Q.C4a/b** Combined First and Second Most Important	
Religion and faith.....	16	[94]	28	[95]
Independence and personal responsibility.....	19		31	
Traditional values.....	9		21	
Service to others, sharing and helping others.	11		23	
Work ethic.....	6		17	
Strengthening the family.....	27		53	
All of them (VOL).....	10	SKIP	NA	
Other/none of them (VOL).....	1	TO	NA	
Not sure.....	1	Q.C6	NA	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO CHOOSE AN AREA AS MOST IMPORTANT IN Q.C4a.)

- C4b. And which one of the following do you think would make the second most important difference if Americans made a special effort to do better in that area over the next few years? **(ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)**

- C5. Now I'd like to read you a list of changes that have been proposed, and for each one I read, I'd like you to tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that change.*

	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Favor</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Significantly reduce the number of immigrants allowed into the U.S. each year.....	44	28	15	10	3	[96]
Impose the death penalty in more criminal cases.....	49	22	12	12	5	[97]
Change divorce laws, so that more couples stay married.....	26	20	19	26	9	[98]
Establish more government controls on TV, movies, and on-line services.....	26	20	19	32	3	[99]
Make it more difficult for individuals to own handguns or assault weapons.....	53	16	11	16	4	[100]
Increase government spending on programs for the poor, elderly, and others with special needs.....	41	33	14	9	3	[101]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- C6. Whether or not you are currently raising children, generally speaking, do you think your approach to raising children is or would be pretty much the same as your parents' approach, or fairly different from your parents' approach?

Pretty much the same.....	57	[102]
Fairly different.....	40	
Not sure.....	3	

- C7. Which of the following statements comes closest to your feelings about prayer in the public schools:

The Lord's Prayer or some Bible verse should be read daily, OR

There should be a moment for silent prayer or meditation daily, OR

No prayer or other religious observances should be held in the public schools.*

	<u>12/96*</u>	<u>7/72¹</u>	
Lord's Prayer or Bible verse reading daily.....	22	29	[103]
Silent prayer or meditation daily.....	55	52	
No prayer or religious observances.....	21	17	
Not sure.....	2	3	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

¹ Comparable data from July 1972 was collected by the National Opinion Research Center. The percentage shown for "not sure" includes those who volunteered something else.

- C8. Generally speaking, when it comes to issues of right and wrong, do you feel issues of right and wrong should be -- decided based on God's law, or decided by society as a whole, or a matter of personal conscience?*

Decided based on God's law.....	37	[104]
Decided by society as a whole.....	25	
A matter of personal conscience.....	33	
Not sure.....	5	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- C9. Let me read you a list of some major social movements of the past thirty years, and for each one I read, tell me whether you feel that movement has had a large positive impact on the values and beliefs of people today, a small positive impact, a small negative impact, or a large negative impact. If you have never heard of a movement I mention, please just say so.*

	Large Positive Impact	Small Positive Impact	Small Negative Impact	Large Negative Impact	Never Heard Of	Not Sure	
The civil rights movement.....	62	22	6	6	1	3	[105]
The environmental movement...	39	42	7	6	1	5	[106]
The right-to-life or anti-abortion movement.....	26	24	21	20	-	9	[107]
The AIDS awareness movement.....	49	31	7	5	2	6	[108]
The religious or family values movement.....	31	38	11	7	4	9	[109]
The women's movement.....	45	31	11	8	1	4	[110]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- C10. How important would you say religion is in your own life--very important, fairly important, or not very important?

	<u>12/96</u>	<u>7/89¹</u>	<u>4/89¹</u>	<u>12/87¹</u>	
Very important.....	56	55	58	52	[111]
Fairly important.....	30	31	28	30	
Not very important.....	12	13	13	18	
Not important at all (VOL)	1	NA	NA	NA	
Not sure.....	1	1	2	1	

¹ Comparable data from July 1989, April 1989, and December 1987 was collected by the National Opinion Research Center.

- C11. Rate your own morals and values on a scale from one to one hundred, on which a number closer to "100" indicates that you have extremely high morals and values, and a number closer to "1" indicates awful morals and values.

96 to 100.....	21	
90 to 95.....	29	[112-114]
80 to 89.....	26	
75 to 70.....	11	
Zero to 74.....	11	
Cannot rate.....	2	

- C12. If you were thinking of hiring a new employee, which of the following, if any, would you consider a strong reason for rejecting someone's job application? **(ACCEPT AS MANY ANSWERS AS APPLY.)****

A past record of drug use.....	49	[115]
Having committed adultery.....	10	>
Having a homosexual relationship.....	11	
A past record of alcoholism.....	18	
An arrest for participation in a protest rally.....	3	
All of them (VOL).....	6	
None of them.....	23	
Not sure.....	4	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- C13. Just during the past year or two, have you personally gotten involved in giving your time and energy to a volunteer or community service activity?

Have gotten involved.....	59	[116]
Have not gotten involved.....	37	

Have giving money/financial contribution (VOL).....	2
Was involved longer ago than two years (VOL).....	1
Refused/not sure.....	1

Getting to the end of the survey...

- 21a. How closely have you been following the recent civil trial involving the lawsuit brought against O.J. Simpson by family members of Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson--very closely, somewhat closely, not very closely, or not at all closely?

Very closely.....	10	[117]
Somewhat closely.....	35	
Not very closely.....	27	
Not at all closely.....	26	
None (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	1	

DURING CRIMINAL TRIAL

	<u>6/95</u>	<u>3/95</u>
Very closely.....	13	13
Somewhat closely.....	31	34
Not very closely.....	24	26
Not at all closely.....	28	24
None (VOL).....	3	2
Not sure.....	1	1

- 21b. Do you personally think O.J. Simpson did or did not commit the murders of Ron Goldman and Nicole Brown Simpson?

O.J. Simpson did commit the murders.....	63	[118]
O.J. Simpson did not commit the murders...	14	
Not sure.....	23	

DURING CRIMINAL TRIAL

	<u>6/95</u>	<u>4/21- 25/9</u>	<u>12/9</u>	<u>9/9</u>	<u>7/9</u>
O.J. Simpson is guilty.....	54	50	49	42	33
O.J. Simpson is not guilty.....	17	18	16	22	23
Not sure.....	29	32	35	36	44

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. What is the last grade you completed in school?

Grade school.....	1	{201}
Some high school.....	8	
High school graduate.....	30	
Some college, no degree.....	15	
Vocational training, 2-year college.....	13	
4-year college/bachelor's degree.....	18	
Some postgraduate work, no degree.....	3	
2-3 years' postgraduate work, master's degree.....	8	
Doctoral degree/law degree.....	2	
Not sure.....	2	

F2. How old are you? (IF REFUSED, ASK:) Well, can you tell me which age group you belong to? Are you in the age group 18 to 24, 25 to 29, 30 to 34, 35 to 39, 40 to 44, 45 to 49, 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64, or 65 and over?

18-24.....	12	45-49.....	9	{202}
25-29.....	10	50-54.....	7	
30-34.....	11	55-59.....	6	
35-39.....	11	60-64.....	5	
40-44.....	10	65 and over.....	17	
		Refused.....	2	

F3. Are you currently employed?

(IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:) What type of work do you do?**(IF NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:)** Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

<u>Currently Employed</u>		
Professional/manager.....	27	{203}
White collar worker.....	17	
Blue collar worker.....	20	
Farmer.....	1	
<u>Not Currently Employed</u>		
Student.....	3	
Homemaker.....	6	
Retired.....	20	
Unemployed.....	4	
Never worked/not sure.....	2	

F4. In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, very conservative, or do you think your views cannot really be described in those terms?

Very liberal.....	5	{206}
Somewhat liberal.....	17	
Moderate.....	25	
Somewhat conservative.....	24	
Very conservative.....	13	
Views cannot be described in those terms....	13	
Not sure.....	3	

- F5. Are you currently registered to vote in the precinct or election district in which you now live, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

Registered	84	{207}
Not registered.....	14	
Not sure.....	2	

- F6a. Did you happen to vote in the 1996 presidential election?

(IF "YES," ASK:) For whom did you vote -- Bill Clinton, the Democrat, Bob Dole, the Republican, or Ross Perot, the Reform Party candidate?

	<u>All</u>	<u>Adults Who Voted</u>		
<u>Yes, Voted</u>				
Bill Clinton.....	38	50		{208}
Bob Dole	27	37	CONTINUE	
Ross Perot.....	5	6		
Other (VOL)/not sure/refused.....	5	7		
<u>No, Did Not Vote</u>	21	-	SKIP TO	
<u>Not Sure If Voted/Refused</u>	4	-	Q.F7.	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY VOTED IN Q.F6a.)

- F6b. In the 1996 election for U.S. House of Representatives, did you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district?

	<u>All</u>	<u>Adults Who Voted</u>	
Democratic candidate.....	33	44	{209}
Republican candidate.....	33	44	
Another candidate (VOL).....	1	1	
Didn't vote in House election (VOL).....	1	2	
Not sure.....	7	9	
Did not vote (Q.F6a).....	25	NA	

(ASK EVERYONE)

- F7. What is your marital status--are you single and never married, married, separated, divorced, or widowed?

Single.....	24	{211}
Married.....	57	
Separated.....	2	
Divorced.....	9	
Widowed.....	7	
Not sure/refused.....	1	

- F8a. In what religion were you brought up?

Protestant.....	53	CONTINUE	{212}
Catholic.....	31		
Jewish.....	2		
Other.....	8	SKIP TO Q.F9.	
None.....	4		
Not sure/refused.....	2		

(ASK ONLY OF PROTESTANTS IN Q.F8a)

F8b. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or an evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way?

Yes, fundamentalist/evangelical/both	18	{213}
No, neither fundamentalist or evangelical.....	30	
Not sure.....	5	
Non-Protestants (Q.F8b).....	47	

(ASK EVERYONE.)

F9. Are you, or is any member of your household, a member of a labor union?

Labor union member.....	11	{215}
Labor union household.....	8	
Nonunion household.....	78	
Not sure.....	3	

F10. For each of the following descriptions I read, please tell me if this applies to you personally. First, **(READ ITEM)** -- does that apply to you or doesn't it?

	<u>Applies</u>	<u>Does Not Apply</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
A supporter of conservative Christian political organizations, such as the Christian Coalition.....	14	80	6	[119]
Regularly use the Internet or other on-line computer information services, either at home or at work.....	31	67	2	[120]
Have children under age 18 living in your household.....	38	60	2	[121]

F11. Are you white, black, Hispanic, Asian, or something else?

White.....	79	{220}
Black.....	11	
Hispanic.....	5	
Asian.....	1	
Other.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F12. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000.....	5	{221}
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	11	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	16	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	14	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	12	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	16	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	6	
More than \$100,000.....	6	
Not sure/refused.....	14	